

Take up the White Man's burden--
Send forth the best ye breed--
Go bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;
To wait in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild--
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half-devil and half-child.

What is the rhyme scheme of this stanza?

Besides rhyme scheme, what other literary devices are used in this stanza?

Paraphrase this stanza:

Shoulder your responsibility—make sure you do what you're supposed to do—

Send your best people far away—

On their own in some faraway place

To take care of the people you've captured / taken over

Your best people must stay in that place to take care of the country even if they don't want to be there

The people there are uncivilized and naïve

And they are not grateful that your people are there taking care of them

Because they are uneducated and ignorant

What is the main idea of this stanza?

Take up the White Man's burden--
In patience to abide,
To veil the threat of terror
And check the show of pride;
By open speech and simple,
An hundred times made plain
To seek another's profit,
And work another's gain.

What is the rhyme scheme of this stanza?

Besides rhyme scheme, what other literary devices are used in this stanza?

Paraphrase this stanza:

Shoulder your responsibility—make sure you do what you're supposed to do—

You need to keep waiting

Until the possibility of the people you've captured attacking you goes away

And your captives aren't proud and haughty anymore because they know who's boss

Say what you need to say

Over and over again

Until you gain something from keeping your captives

And they figure out that they are gaining something, too (after all, you are bringing civilization to them even if they don't appreciate it)

What is the main idea of this stanza?

Take up the White Man's burden--
The savage wars of peace--
Fill full the mouth of Famine
And bid the sickness cease;
And when your goal is nearest
The end for others sought,
Watch sloth and heathen Folly
Bring all your hopes to nought.

What is the rhyme scheme of this stanza?

Besides rhyme scheme, what other literary devices are used in this stanza?

Paraphrase this stanza:

Shoulder your responsibility—make sure you do what you're supposed to do—

When the world is at peace

People in those uncivilized places are starving to death because they don't know any better

They are sick with preventable diseases that you can cure because you're educated

When you almost have reached your goal of civilizing these people

You'll see that they are still uncivilized and lazy

Which brings all your hopes crashing down

What is the main idea of this stanza?

Take up the White Man's burden--
No tawdry rule of kings,
But toil of serf and sweeper--
The tale of common things.
The ports ye shall not enter,
The roads ye shall not tread,
Go mark them with your living,
And mark them with your dead.

What is the rhyme scheme of this stanza?

Besides rhyme scheme, what other literary devices are used in this stanza?

Paraphrase this stanza:

*Shoulder your responsibility—make sure you do what you're supposed to do—
You don't have to make horrible rules for the people you're trying to civilize
But you do need to make them work in the fields for you
And do things that civilized people do.
You won't be able to go to the country you've civilized
And walk around and live there
But you need to create civilization there
Even if it means your own people die there.*

What is the main idea of this stanza?

Take up the White Man's burden--
And reap his old reward:
The blame of those ye better,
The hate of those ye guard--
The cry of hosts ye humour
(Ah, slowly!) toward the light:--
"Why brought he us from bondage,
Our loved Egyptian night?"

What is the rhyme scheme of this stanza?

Besides rhyme scheme, what other literary devices are used in this stanza?

Paraphrase this stanza:

Shoulder your responsibility—make sure you do what you're supposed to do—

You'll be paid eventually

The people you've worked so hard to civilize will curse at you and hate you

Even though you tried to help them and give them what they needed

They will wonder why you did such a good thing for them

And they are so naïve that they don't understand that you've made them better than they were before—they don't appreciate it at all

What is the main idea of this stanza?

Take up the White Man's burden--
Ye dare not stoop to less--
Nor call too loud on Freedom
To cloke¹ your weariness;
By all ye cry or whisper,
By all ye leave or do,
The silent, sullen peoples
Shall weigh your gods and you.

What is the rhyme scheme of this stanza?

Besides rhyme scheme, what other literary devices are used in this stanza?

Paraphrase this stanza:

Shoulder your responsibility—make sure you do what you're supposed to do—

Your race is better than anyone else in the world

Don't use the excuse that they need to be free just because you're too tired to deal with them

The captive people will judge you and your religion and race based on what you do and say, so be sure to do and say the right thing even when those people are being nasty to you.

What is the main idea of this stanza?

(1) Cloak, cover.

Take up the White Man's burden--
Have done with childish days--
The lightly proffered laurel,²
The easy, ungrudged praise.
Comes now, to search your manhood
Through all the thankless years
Cold, edged with dear-bought wisdom,
The judgment of your peers!

(2) Since the days of Classical Greece, a laurel wreath has been a symbolic victory prize.

What is the rhyme scheme of this stanza?

Besides rhyme scheme, what other literary devices are used in this stanza?

Paraphrase this stanza:

Shoulder your responsibility—make sure you do what you're supposed to do—

It's time to face the fact that you can't make peace with uncivilized nations—you must conquer them instead

It's time to stand up and do what's right

And know that the years ahead will be difficult

But it will be worth it in the end

Because other countries will admire you for what you've accomplished

What is the main idea of this stanza?